

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106517
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY M/MO:WLLOYD:ML
APPROVED BY M - MISS CLARK
S/S SGOLDSMITH
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-----111300Z 013506 /47

P 110448Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 106517

TO AMBASSADOR FOR MOOSE FROM CLARK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: SFRC MARKUP

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD MARKUP SESSION ON STATE AUTHORIZATION BILL TODAY. SENATOR PERCY'S AMENDMENT ON STATE-USIA REORGANIZATION WAS SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED, AND APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

2. YOU WILL RECALL THAT, AS SUBMITTED BY PERCY, AMENDMENT WOULD LIST "FINDINGS" BY CONGRESS THAT (A) THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLICY ARTICULATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES; (B) POLICY ARTICULATION SHOULD BE IN STATE; (C) CU AND USIA CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE IN A SINGLE AGENCY; (D) VOA'S ROLE AS BOTH NEWS SOURCE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY CAN BE RECONCILED IF VOA IS REESTABLISHED AS SEPARATE AGENCY; AND (E) VOA SHOULD AVE INCREASED
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FACILITIES, IN MORE LANGUAGES. AMENDMENT CALLED ON PRESIDENT TO TRANSMIT TO SFRC AND HIRC BY 9/30/77 A REORGANIZATION PLAN "IN COMPLIANCE" WITH FINDINGS.

3. IN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, MAIN ISSUE WAS VOA, AS PERCY CITED LIST OF EXAMPLES OF STATE PRESSURE ON VOA NEWS COVERAGE. CHURCH (WITH SPARKMAN'S PROXY) AND HUMPHREY DIFFERED,

SAYING ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT

REORGANIZATION PLAN. JAVITS PROPOSED AMENDMENT CALLING ON PRESIDENT TO "TAKE ACCOUNT" (ONLY) OF EARLIER REPORTS BY STANTON AND MURPHY.

4. AS FINALLY ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE LATE MAY 10: (A) AMENDMENT NOTES "FINDINGS" (PARA 2 ABOVE), WITH EXCEPTION THAT VOA'S REESTABLISHMENT AS SEPARATE AGENCY DELETED; (B) PRESIDENT HAS UNTIL OCTOBER 30 TO TRANSMIT A PLAN; (C) PLAN SHOULD "TAKE ACCOUNT" OF REPORTS BY STANTON, MURPHY, GAO AND US ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INFORMATION. (LAST NAMED REPORT APPEARED MAY 9, AND CALLS FOR DEFERRAL OF DECISION ON USIA UNTIL DECISIONS ARE MADE ON "HOW TO REORGANIZE ENTIRE FOREIGN POLICY COMMUNITY." NOTEWORTHY IS FACT THAT THREE OF FIVE SIGNERS OF THIS REPORT WERE STANTON PANEL MEMBERS, AND HAVE CHANGED MINDS.)

5. COMMENT: AS FINALLY ADOPTED, AMENDMENT SHOULD NOT PRESENT PROBLEMS, AS IT DOES NOT PRE-JUDGE RESULT OF PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION OF STATE-USIA REORGANIZATION. CHRISTOPHER

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